

Application Serial No. 10/297,279

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Date November 27, 2006

Reply to Office Action dated September 27, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet(s) of drawing includes changes to Figs 3 and 4. This sheet, which includes Figs. 3 and 4, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 3 and 4

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)
Annotated Sheet(s) Showing Changes

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REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of July 24, 2006.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-28, 30 and 31 remain in the application. The Office Action of July 26, 2006 has been received and carefully considered. In response thereto, this Amendment is submitted. It is submitted that, by this Amendment, all bases of rejection and objection are traversed and overcome. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The specification has been objected to because of various informalities. The disclosure has been amended paying particular attention to the matters raised by the Examiner. It is submitted that by this amendment that the matters objected to have been addressed.

The drawings have been objected to as failing to show various elements. Proposed drawing changes have been submitted addressing these concerns.

The specification has also been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Claim 7 has been amended to address this matter.

Claims 23-28 are considered allowable. Claim 21 is rejected but would be considered allowable if rewritten in independent form to contain all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Claim 21 has been amended by this action.

Claims 2-26, and 30 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended paying particular attention to the remarks of the Examiner. It is submitted that, by this amendment, the applicant's invention as set forth in claims 2-26 and 30 now particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 17-20, 22 and 31 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Powlan (US 3,888,243). The Powlan reference fails to teach or suggest the configuration of elongated member, truss, and gas spring as set forth in claims 17-20, 22 and 31 as amended. Thus it is submitted that the Powlan reference fails to teach or suggest the applicant's invention as set forth in claims 17-20, 22 and 31.

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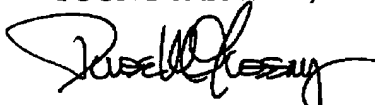
In summary, claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21 and 30 have been amended by this action. It is submitted that, in view of this amendment, the applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1-28, 30 and 31 is in a condition suitable for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

It is submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Consideration of the application as amended is requested. It is submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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DMG/ljo